

CHAPTER EIGHT

Faith of Our Fathers

A living faith—a faith that literally moved mountains of colonizing problems, mountains of tragedy, sorrow and hardship and yet brought with it mountains of joy—characterized the lives of pioneer settlers in Heber City and Wasatch County.

Theirs was a faith that had spurred them to move from other areas into this new frontier land where they had to wrestle with the soil and the elements for new homes, new farms and a new kind of life. It was a faith, also, that moved them to great spiritual works. They found no established meeting houses, well organized and conveniently operating, when they came. They had to build their own buildings, provide their own leadership and work hard to bring righteousness into their area. This they did, and did it with a determined faith that would not allow them to sacrifice the precious religious heritage that had brought them to this land and that sustained them each day of their lives.

The first group that was organized to come to the valley had an appointed religious leader, Elder William Meeks. All the settlers were Latter-day Saints, and they looked to their spiritual leaders for temporal guidance also.

When Elder Meeks left the valley, William Madison Wall became the area's presiding elder. He served until President Brigham Young ordained Joseph S. Murdock to be bishop of a new ward that was created in Heber City in 1861.

Abram Hatch succeeded Bishop Murdock in 1867 and he served until 1877 when he was called as the first president of the new Wasatch Stake. One of his first acts as stake president was to arrange a special conference at which the Heber Ward was divided into the Heber East and the Heber West Wards.

Main Street was declared the dividing line, and all those east of the street were naturally in the East Ward and those west of Main were in the West Ward.

Even though there were now two wards in Heber City, they continued for a time to hold a joint Sunday School. Sunday School services had been held since 1862 under the direction of Thomas H. Giles, the first Heber Ward superintendent. Others who served in that capacity were John Galligher, Samuel Wing, Henry Clegg, Frederick Giles and William Lindsay.

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1866 and finally by 1874 a Social Hall was used. Finally the Stake House was completed in 1887 and Sunday School meetings of the two wards were still held conjointly in the Stake House.

When the two wards were organized in 1877, Thomas Rasband was called to be bishop of the Heber East Ward. He chose John Muir and Harmon Cummings as his counselors. Bishop Rasband served until July 24, 1884, when an accident claimed his life. In the Heber West Ward, William Forman was sustained as the first bishop, with John Crook and George T. Giles as his counselors.

For some time after their organization the two wards continued to hold joint meetings. Sacrament meetings were held Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. The two bishoprics, each in turn, took charge of the meetings.

The large bell in the belfry of the stake house pealed out every Sabbath at 9:30 a.m. to remind the people of Sunday School and at 1:30 p.m. to remind them that Sacrament meeting was in half-an-hour.

Primary meetings were held in the back room of the Stake House on separate days for each ward. Relief Society meetings were also in the back room on Thursday afternoons. For some time, fast day was observed on the first Thursday of the month, and on this day the brethren would leave their work in the fields to join with the Relief Society sisters in the afternoon for a fast and testimony bearing meeting. Mutual Improvement Association meetings were originally held in the upper room of the old tithing office, and later in the stake house.

No exact information is available as to the year that the tithing office was built. However, it was in full operation by 1888 when James H. Moulton was appointed as Stake Tithing Clerk.

In the early days of the valley the tithing office was an important institution. Practically all of the tithing was paid by Church members in produce, and the office served as a central place for receiving and storing the goods.

The tithing office was built on the east side of Main Street at First North. The block on which the tithing office stood was also purchased by the church for other storage buildings. Sandstone was used to construct the tithing office, which was two stories high. There were two rooms on the ground floor, the main room on the west being used to transact business. The other main floor room was used as an office where groups could meet for any public, private or Church business. There was a large book cupboard in this room which served as a public library for some time. A set of encyclopedias donated to the community by James B. Wilson was the main attraction in the room.

On the second floor of the building there was a large meeting room used by many Church organizations. The basement was a large storage cellar and was divided into bins for potatoes and other vegetables.

North of the office building was a large two story granary. Each

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The Wasatch Stake Tithing Office, built in 1888 on Main Street in Heber, was an important building during the years when so much tithing was paid "in kind."

level was divided into bins for storage of different grains. A stairway and also a hand-operated elevator connected the two stories.

A large hay barn and hay shed occupied the east portion of the block. At harvest time it was quite common to have both buildings filled with hay and several stacks of hay in the yard. As many as 15 loads of hay would often be unloaded in a day as conscientious farmers gave their "tenth" to the Lord.

Elder Moulton, the tithing clerk, worked long hours to receive and account for the tithing paid "in kind." He usually opened the office at 7 a.m. and rarely closed before 6 p.m. He had to help with all the unloading and handling of the products. As there was no railroad service, all of the commodities shipped to Salt Lake City or other areas had to go out by wagon. At one time more than 300 bushels of potatoes were shipped from Heber and Wallsburg. The tithing clerk also had to do the painting and repairing of the buildings, and make out all the reports that were sent to the Presiding Bishop's Office in Salt Lake City.

Other tithing clerks who followed Elder Moulton included George Harbour, William Lindsay and Robert Duke.

Some years after the construction of the tithing office a remodeling project was carried out to add a baptismal font in the east room on the main floor. Prior to this the stake had conducted baptismal services once each summer at the Provo River, Spring Creek, the Millpond or some other designated place. The day was always an occasion as families

gathered in their wagons or buggies, on horseback or on foot to participate in the "baptizing day."

Authorities of the stake realized the need for a baptismal font where the ordinance could regularly be performed, and so the facilities were constructed in the tithing office where services were held monthly.

A devastating fire on the grounds and out-buildings surrounding the tithing office broke out during a peaceful night in the fall of 1903, and before the bucket brigade could bring sufficient water to the scene the hay, barns and sheds were destroyed. The brigade saved the tithing office itself, however. This fire virtually brought an end to the payment of tithing "in kind." Farmers were urged to sell their produce and pay their tithes in cash. More adequate baptismal facilities were constructed in the new high school seminary building about this time, also, and the usefulness of the tithing office began to wane. The building was sold to Labon Hylton who converted it into two apartments, and then sold the property to Lowe Ashton who constructed a modern service station on the site.



BISHOP THOMAS RASBAND
first bishop of Heber East Ward.

When Bishop Thomas Rasband of Heber East Ward died Robert S. Duke was called as the new bishop. His counselors were Orson Hicken and Henry Ohlweiler. Bishop Duke served until 1901 when he was ordained a Patriarch of the Wasatch Stake. However, the ward didn't lose Bishop Duke, for his son, Robert Duke became the new bishop, with Orson Hicken and George Wootton as counselors.

In the West Ward, Bishop Forman served until 1885 when he was succeeded by Bishop Henry Clegg. Thomas Hicken Jr. was sustained as the third bishop of the ward in 1894 and served until 1902 when he moved with his family to Raymond, Alberta, Canada. At the time he moved, plans were underway by the stake presidency to dissolve the two Heber Wards and create three new wards, so no new bishop was sustained.

Those who served in leadership capacities in the East and West Wards before the reorganization were as follows:

HEBER EAST WARD RELIEF SOCIETY: Margaret Muir, president from 1879 to 1895 with Elizabeth Rasband and Margaret Todd as counselors and Ellen Lee and Eda Johnson as secretaries; Sarah Bond, president from 1895 to 1901 with Hannah Nicol, Fedelia Jacobs and Betty Peterson as counselors and Mary A. Cummings and Eda R. Johnson, secretaries; Sarah K. Bridge, president from 1901 to 1902, with Mary A. Cummings and Augusta Dahlman, counselors, Amelia Montgomery and Eda R. Johnson, secretaries; Alice Lambert, president from 1902 to 1903 with Anna Smart and Emma Duke, counselors and Amelia Montgomery and Eda R. Johnson, secretaries.



The Heber Sunday School Choir of 1896, George Harbor, leader.

Front row, left to right, Lottie Moulton, Emma Giles, Tillie Clegg, Minnie Dahlman, Lillie Roberts and Emily Howarth. Second row, Mary Giles, Hannah Jeffs and Mary Hicken. Third row, Ruth Hicken, Joseph Moulton, John W. Crook, Isabell Baum and Hannah Harbour. Fourth row, Georganna Lindsay, Joseph A. Murdock, Malinda Hicken, Mary Carlile, Mary Emma McMillan, Annabell Clegg, Lizzie Giles, Gladys McMullin, Harriet McMillan and George Harbor. Fifth row, Mary Howarth, DeVera Smith, Sarah Giles and Jennie Dahlman.

HEBER EAST WARD PRIMARY: Ellen Lee, president from 1879 to 1893 with Josephine Cluff, Eda Johnson and Marion Todd (Campbell) as counselors and Annie R. Duke, Isabell Todd (Hicken), Dora Nicol (Murdock) and Mary E. Rasband (McDonald), secretaries; Fedelia Jacobs president from 1893 to 1899 with Emily Bond (Murdock), Mary M. Fisher, Emma Duke and Mary Jeffs Bond as counselors and

Eliza Jane Ohlwiler and Ida Murdock (Kirkham), secretaries; Mary E. Rasband McDonald president from 1899 to 1903 with Eliza J. Rasband, Maggie Murdock, Minnie A. Cummings as counselors and Minnie Murdock (Giles) and Joan Todd (Watkins) as secretaries, with Clara Clyde and LaPreal Hatch as special aides.

Records of the Heber East Ward MIA apparently are not available, except for a brief mention in the ward records of 1885 that Superintendent Thomas Watson took charge of an MIA meeting at which Robert Duke gave a report of the association's work.

HEBER WEST WARD RELIEF SOCIETY: Katherine Forman president from 1879 to 1895 with Mary Crook, Isabella Murdoch and Ann Murdoch as counselors and Sarah A. Jeffs, Sarah Montgomery, Annie Davis and Hannah Harbour as secretaries; Sarah Cummings, president from 1895 to 1898 with Christina Giles and Mary E. Giles as counselors and Euphemia Moulton as secretary; Christina Giles president from 1898 to 1903 with Mary E. Giles and Sarah E. Carlile as counselors and Sarah Forman and Janett McMullin as secretaries.

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Very few early records are available for the MIA. One entry in the ward records of 1884 indicates that John A. Fortie was president with John T. Giles and Fred Crook as counselors and George Harbour as secretary. Meetings were held in the upper room of the Tithing Office.

The Young Women's Mutual Improvement Association began in Heber on December 3, 1889. The minute book records on that date the following:

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Jeffs receiving the most votes. Sister Mary A. Barnes was chosen first counselor and Mary A. Giles as second."

This system of choosing officers in the MIA by vote was changed when stake and general boards were organized.

The year 1903 was important in the history of Heber City for in that year the two Heber Wards were dissolved and three new wards were created. President William H. Smart, who had succeeded President Hatch in 1901, directed the reorganization of the wards.



The Heber Amusement Hall, constructed in 1906-07 and still in use today.

The two old wards had been divided east and west of Main Street. The new Heber First Ward was to include those living east of Main Street and north of First South. The Heber Second Ward encompassed those living north of Second South, west of Main Street to the Provo River, and the boundary extended north as far as there were any inhabitants to the boundary of Summit Stake. The Heber Third Ward included the area south of First South east of Main Street and south of Second South west of Main Street.

One of the first cooperative projects of the three new wards was construction of the Heber Amusement Hall in 1906 and 1907. The building was badly needed to meet the growing demands of auxiliary organizations of the wards.

The building, now known as the Heber Social Hall, was built under the supervision of Edward D. Clyde. Most of the work on the building was done by volunteer laborers.

When the building was begun the men of the wards turned out in full force to help on the project. The women were present to serve them a delicious meal at the Stake House.

The huge oak dance floor was carefully planned with more than 400 coil springs under the floor. Each piece of flooring was carefully laid, and while the floor was being constructed the work proceeded night and day. Again the women were on hand to keep everyone working and happy with refreshments. Fitting the corners of the floor proved a difficult problem, but George Barzee, a surveyor, was called in and he computed a mathematical formula which the workmen followed and finished the work. The floor is still considered one of the best dance floors in the state.

As the project neared completion the stake leaders set a date for the first dance and party in the building, and everyone worked feverishly to meet the deadline.

Later, an annex room was built adjoining the main building to accommodate smaller parties and banquets. Some 250 to 300 people can be seated in this room. Members of the Heber ward Relief Societies in turn supervise the kitchen which is well equipped for parties and banquets.

Through the years the hall has been a center of social and cultural events for the community as well as the Church. Its usefulness has proved the foresight of the early leaders of the Heber Wards in proposing that the facility be constructed.

HEBER FIRST WARD

Robert Duke, former bishop of the Heber East Ward, was sustained as the first bishop of the new Heber First Ward. Before the reorganization of the ward, Bishop Duke had officiated at the laying of



The old Heber First Ward Chapel dedicated December 26, 1915.

BISHOPS OF THE HEBER FIRST WARD



Robert Duke



George Frank Ryan



George B. Stanley



Joseph A. Olpin



Heber M. Rasband

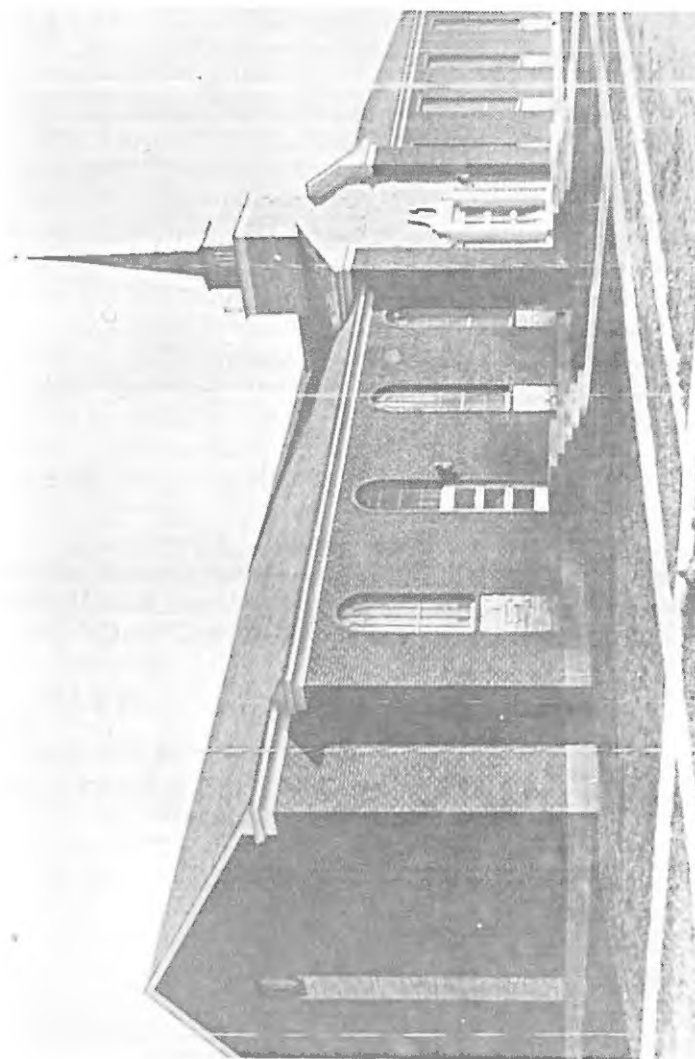


Harold H. Smith



Ervin J. Anderson

a corner stone for a new ward chapel. This had been on Nov. 1, 1901. Now, under the organization of a new ward the building project was resumed again. The chapel was to be built on the site of the old East School, the land being donated to the Church by Joseph Hatch. Rock taken from the old school building was used in the foundation of the Church. During this building period the ward used the north school as a meeting place.



The new Heber First-Sixth Ward Chapel dedicated March 11, 1953.

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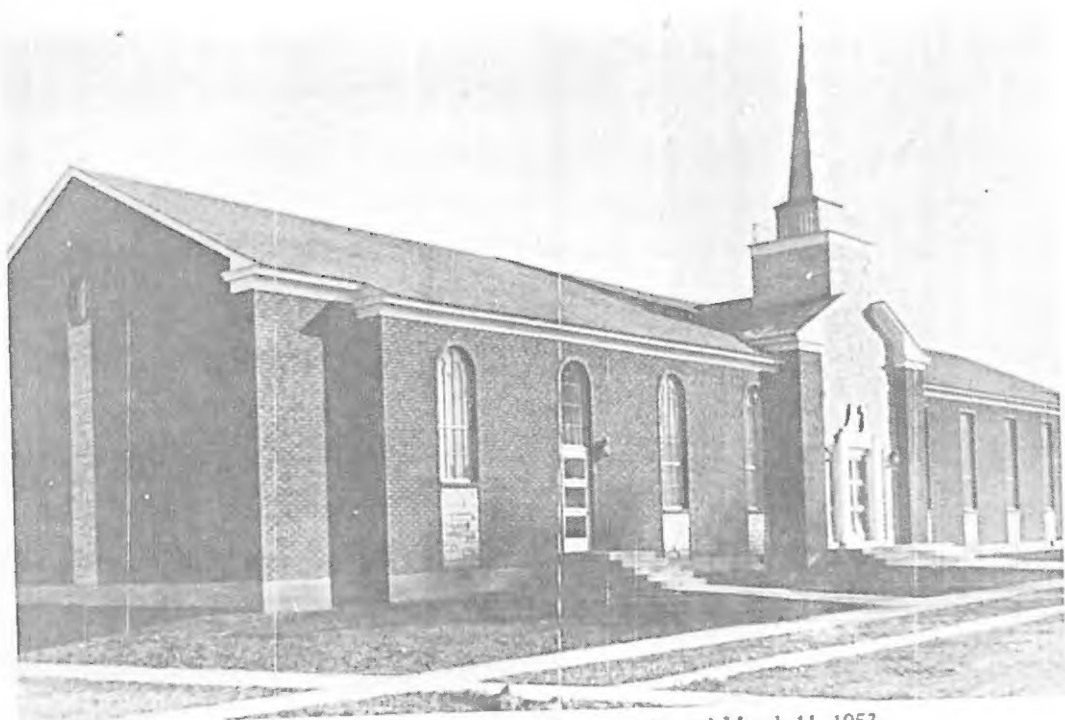


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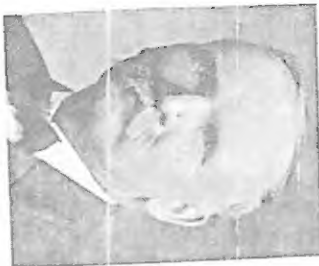
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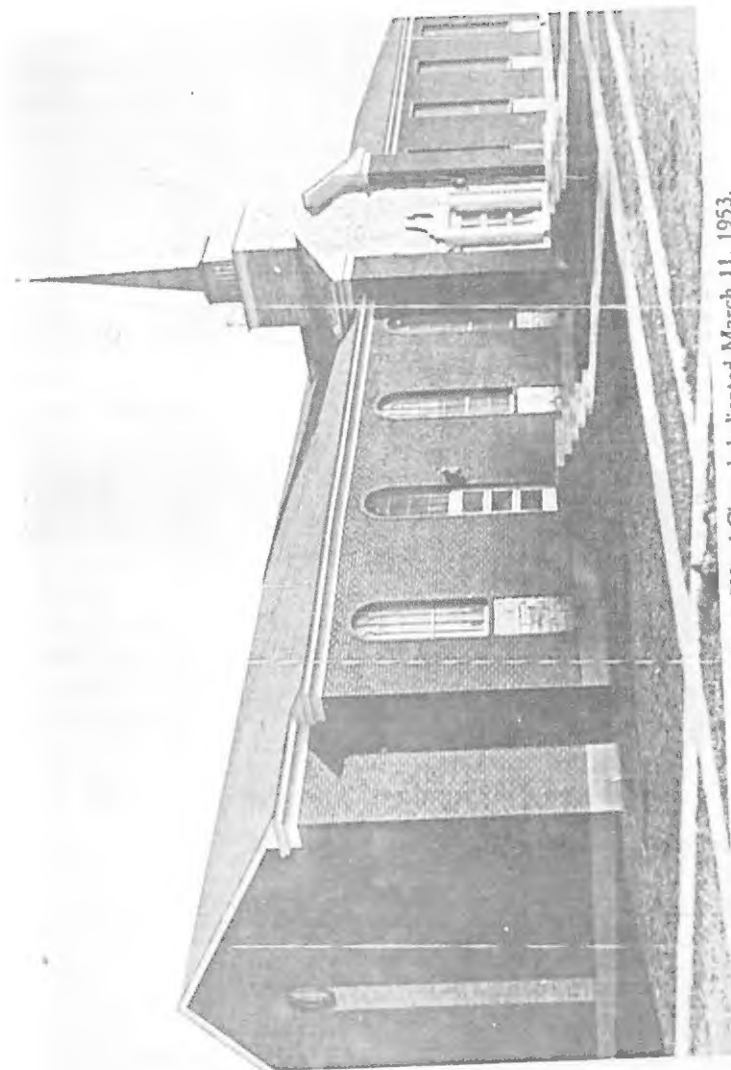
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The new Heber First-Sixth Ward Chapel dedicated March 11, 1953.

The building project proceeded forward, and on December 26, 1915 the building was paid for and ready to be dedicated. Apostle George F. Richards was present to offer the dedicatory prayer. William Lindsay recorded in his diary that 294 persons were present at the "very impressive and interesting services."

A little over a year after the chapel dedication Bishop Duke was released and George Frank Ryan was sustained as the new bishop. Counselors who had served during the years with Bishop Duke included Edward D. Clyde, Joseph Musser, George Smith, Robert Price, E. J. Duke, John Wootton, and James L. Lindsay. Lawrence B. Duke was ward clerk.

When Bishop Ryan was sustained on January 28, 1917, he chose John H. Miller and Adolphia R. Duke as counselors. Lawrence B. Duke continued as ward clerk until 1921 when he became a counselor in the bishopric and George B. Stanley was named ward clerk.

In April of 1923 George Stanley was chosen as Bishop with Lawrence B. Duke and Thomas Crook as counselors and Adolphia R. Duke as ward clerk. This bishopric served together for seven years until August of 1930 when they were released and Joseph Olpin became bishop. His counselors were Thomas Perry and Arnold Johnson with Clarence Olson as ward clerk. During Bishop Olpin's tenure, 10 missionaries were called from the ward to labor in the missions of the Church.

On March 7, 1943, Heber M. Rasband was sustained as the bishop. His counselors were Arnold Johnson and Allen Curry with Walter Harrison as clerk. It was during Bishop Rasband's term that the decision was reached to remodel and expand the ward chapel. Pratt Duke, a former ward member who had moved to Salt Lake City, was called to supervise the expansion work, which began on April 15, 1952. Under the direction of the bishopric and Mr. Duke the project was finished early in 1953, and a beautiful, modern chapel was dedicated to the Lord on March 11, 1953 by Elder Harold B. Lee of the Council of the Twelve.

In January of 1955 Harold H. Smith was called as the new bishop with Ervin Anderson and Maron Hiatt as counselors and Elmo Jacobson, ward clerk. They served together until January 17, 1957 when the ward was divided creating the Heber Sixth Ward.

Following the division the new boundaries of Heber First Ward were as follows: Starting from the north city limits on Third East and running south to Second South, then east to Mill Lane, then south to Call Lane, then east through the fields to the Ed Wade Lane, north to the Lake Creek Highway, along the highway back to Six East, along Sixth East to the north city limits and west again to the place of beginning.

The following Sunday, January 24, 1957, Ervin J. Anderson was sustained as bishop of the Heber First Ward with George Holmes first counselor, Grant Averett second counselor and Rex A. Whiting, ward

clerk. When Grant Averett was released, Malin Lewis was sustained in the bishopric.

Some of the leaders who have served in the ward since the 1903 division include the following:

PRIMARY: Mary Elizabeth McDonald, first president with Janet Duke and Kate Turner, counselors and Anne Coleman, secretary. Other presidents have included Josie Todd, Jennie B. Duke, Chrissie Jones, Lilly Giles, Zella Blackley, Dulce Young, Atha Montgomery, Mabel Crook, Anna Turner, Hope Watson, Nellie Johnson, Ethel Broadbent, Fay Hilton, Marvel Murdock, Retta Simpson, Verna McKnight, Betty Duke, Toma Waldbeiser, Lela Bond, Faye Bonner and Elouise Buell.

RELIEF SOCIETY: Presidents since 1903 have included Margaret Murdock, Annie J. Duke, Linda Duke, Arbelia Harvey, Elizabeth McDonald, Alice Lambert, Jennie Broadbent, Lacy Duke, Retta Allen, Mrs. Frank Price, Leda Titus, Fay Hilton and Ethel Broadbent.

YMMIA: Superintendents have been Louis Jorgensen, Squire Simpson, Wilson Young, Scott Murdock, Clyde Broadbent, Ferrel Anderson, Courtney Childs, Johnnie Brandt, Harris Parcell, Harold Stevens, Grant Averett, Burton Duke and Kent Larsen.

YWMIA: Organized on May 24, 1903 with Martha Duke as president with Isabell Baum and Maggie Murdock as counselors and Edna Averett secretary. Other presidents have been Dora Murdock, Crissie Duke, Lucretia Smith, Alice Wood, Alice Murdock, Lizzie Lindsay, Ardell Clyde, Lacy Duke, Virginia Christensen, LaVon Burch, Enid Duke, Lola Curry, Mable Smith, Ellen Duke, Marvel Murdock, Sylvia Johnson, Mima Rasband, Afton Rosenbaum, Maryan Ryan and Fern Young.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Superintendents have included Orson Ryan, Alfred Duke, Allen Curry, John H. Miller, Frank Epperson, Howard Duke, Lester Greenwood, H. Ray Hatch, Lyman Duke, Sylvan Smith, D. L. Hilton, Thomas Perry, John Turner, Dean Balls, Reed Giles, Kenneth Johnson, Rex Whiting, Stephen Mahoney, William Jordan, Orson Allen, Lynn Murdock, Malin Lewis and Bob Provost.

CHOIR LEADERS: Roger Horrocks, John H. Murdock, Emil Peterson, Frank Epperson, Storm McDonald, a Mr. McAllister, ElRoy Van Wagoner, Jennie Brown Duke, Ramon Duke and Maxine Carlile. Organists have been Jane Hatch Turner, Mina Duke Stevens, Dora Jones Bennion, Vera Rasband who served for 40 years, LaVada Harrison and Florence Anderson.

HEBER SECOND WARD

When the new boundaries of the Heber Second Ward were established in the 1903 division, a special exception was made to include the premises of Joseph A. Rasband who lived on the east side of Main Street, for Brother Rasband had been selected by the Stake Presidency to be